

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

All claims currently being amended are shown with deleted text struckthrough or double bracketed and new text underlined. Additionally, the status of each claims is indicated in parenthetical expression following the claim number.

Claims 1-30 remain.

Claims 1-7, 10-22 and 25-30 are being cancelled.

Claims 8 and 23 are being amended.

Claims 9 and 24 are original.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 -7 (cancelled).

8. (Currently amended) ~~The audio system of claim 5,~~ An audio system having reduced clipping effects, comprising:

an audio source producing left and right channel input signals and drive circuitry coupled to said left and right channel input signals for producing a left channel output signal, a right channel output signal, and a common mode output signal that are each dependent upon a combination of said left and said right channel input signals so that clipping effects are reduced, and wherein said drive circuitry comprises a left channel digital processor providing said left channel output signal, a right channel digital processor providing said right channel output signal, and a common mode digital processor providing said common mode output signal.

9. (original) The audio system of claim 8, further comprising:

a first digital-to-analog converter and a first amplifier coupled to said left channel digital processor to drive said left channel output signal;

a second digital-to-analog converter and a second amplifier coupled to said right channel digital processor to drive said right channel output signal; and

a third digital-to-analog converter and a third amplifier coupled to said common mode digital processor to drive said common mode output signal.

10 - 22 (Cancel)

23. (Currently Amended) ~~The drive circuit of claim 21,~~ A drive circuit receiving left and right channel digital audio input signals and driving a left channel output signal, a right channel output signal, and a common mode output signal that are each dependent upon a combination of said left and right channel digital audio input signals so that clipping effects are reduced, wherein said left and right channel output signals are dependent upon feedback from said common mode output signal, comprising:

a first amplifier to drive said left channel output signal, a second amplifier to drive said right channel output signal, and a third amplifier to drive said common mode output signal; and

~~further comprising~~ a left channel digital processor providing said left channel output signal, a right channel digital processor providing said right channel output signal, and a common mode digital processor providing said common mode output signal.

24. (original) The drive circuit of claim 23, further comprising:

a first digital-to-analog converter and said first amplifier coupled to said left channel digital processor to drive said left channel output signal;

a second digital-to-analog converter and said second amplifier coupled to said right channel digital processor to drive said right channel output signal; and

a third digital-to-analog converter and third amplifier coupled to said common mode digital processor to drive said common mode output signal.

25 - 30 (cancelled)